

November 29, 2004

The Honorable Vincent P. Meconi, Chair  
Delaware Health Fund Advisory Committee  
Department of Health & Social Services  
1901 N. DuPont Highway – Main Bldg.  
New Castle, DE 19720

Dear Secretary Meconi:

I write on behalf of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) to thank the Delaware Health Fund Advisory Committee for providing funding (\$430,000) for the Community-based Attendant Services Act (H.B. 30) in the past. The statewide personal attendant services program has enjoyed broad support from major disability organizations and the General Assembly. This program, in conjunction with the State-funded program, will be able to serve up to 60 people in FY 05. The Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD) contracts with Easter Seals to administer both programs and the Division manages the contract as two separate funding sources.

DSAAPD recently reported that there are 30 people on the waiting list for personal attendant services which includes 18 from the State-funded program and 12 from the H.B. 30 program. In addition, DSAAPD's Passport to Independence program anticipates the transition of 15 individuals from institutions into the community while Independent Resources, Inc. anticipates the transition of 10 individuals in a similar program. DSAAPD and Easter Seals have reported that \$900,000 would be required to secure personal attendant services for 55 individuals, which would eliminate the aforementioned waiting list and accommodate the individuals in the nursing home transition programs.

SCPD realizes that Delaware's application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a Federal Personal Attendant Services (PAS) Waiver was recently approved which should increase the number of individuals being served in the State's PAS program. SCPD applauds the State's efforts regarding this issue. Council encourages the Delaware Health Fund Advisory Committee to obtain an overview of the State's plan regarding implementation of the Waiver and consider an increase in funding if needed, or as appropriate. Enhancement of the PAS program is consistent with Delaware's commitment to further enhance community-based alternatives for individuals with disabilities as demonstrated by Executive Order 50. In addition, Delaware may realize cost savings since providing community-based services costs much less than institutional care. For example, the

per diem rate for non-Medicare/Medicaid residents at the Delaware Hospital for the Chronically Ill is \$357.39 which equates to \$130,447.35 annually. For Medicaid residents, the per diem rate varies from a minimum of \$269.86 to \$374.41 depending on the level of care. This equates to \$98,498.90 annually for the lowest level of care to \$136,659.65 for the highest level of care. Finally, the per diem rate for Stockley Center is \$508.85 which equates to \$185,730.25 annually.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniese McMullin-Powell  
Chairperson  
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

cc: Delaware Health Fund Advisory Committee Members  
Ms. Sandra Tuttle  
Mr. Allan Zaback  
Ms. Mary Kate McLaughlin  
Ms. Christine Pochomis

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